

AUG 24 1959

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP7

STATINTL

Khrushchev Visit Blamed In Laos Fight

Sen. Fulbright Sees
Red Chinese Piqued

By Victor Wilson

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The current Communist assault on Laos was sparked by Red China to show its pique against Soviet Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev's forthcoming visit to Washington, Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., said today.

The Senator, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, said he was certain the Red Chinese were far from pleased by Mr. Khrushchev's acceptance of President Eisenhower's invitation, and that their own exclusion added fuel to the fire.

The attack in Laos, by infiltrating Communist forces from bordering North Viet Nam, is Peiping's way of showing that it still has a freedom of choice, and is not immobilized by Russian policy, Sen. Fulbright declared.

He added that the developing strength of Communist China must "give pause" to Russia. And he added that this growth might well inspire Mr. Khrushchev and his Kremlin aids not to "alienate" the United States too far.

The reason for this, Sen. Fulbright said, would be that Russia would want a stable world, in the not-too-distant future when a showdown might come along the long Russian-Communist China frontier.

Was there a way the United States could "exploit" the cleavage between the two Communist giants? Sen. Fulbright was asked on the CBS program, "Face the Nation."

"Not very soon," he replied, "but it could be very useful in the long run."

Asked if American intervention in Laos was likely, the Senator said he would oppose it, since the Laotians seem to be holding their own. He said he would oppose any idea of an American "expeditionary" force and he suggested that a Laotian appeal to the United Nations might be the best possible course.

On the Khrushchev visit, due

to start Sept. 15, with a return visit by President Eisenhower to Russia at an undetermined time, Sen. Fulbright said the chief danger he could see was an expectation of too great results by the American public.

The best he hopes for, the Arkansas nsaid, was a "rational discussion" by the two leaders of problems between the two nations, and the possibility that the first exchange would lead to more of the same in the future.

"We can't adjust our differences by standing off and sticking our tongues at each other," he said.

Difficult Bargaining Seen

Sen. Fulbright said he foresaw some difficult bargaining with French President Charles de Gaulle by the President when Mr. Eisenhower sees him in Paris during his forthcoming trip to that capital, London and Bonn, as a prelude to the Khrushchev visit. The President leaves for Bonn by jet plane early Wednesday morning.